

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Schileru-Key (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0093541).

Claims 1-20 Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Schileru-Key (US Patent Application Publication 2002/0093541). The declaration previously filed was found to swear to an insufficient date. The Applicant therefore respectfully traverses this rejection and seeks reconsideration in light of the following arguments.

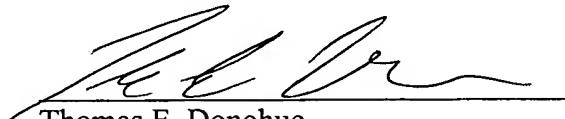
The Sculeru-Key reference fails to teach the limitations of the present invention. Most significantly, the reference fails to teach the claimed limitations of the way-point elements being positioned WITHIN the virtual environment. The S-K reference utilizes a separate top-view map with navigational nodes contained therein. The virtual-environment to the right contains no way-point elements as claimed in the independent claims of the present invention. This is a significant novel difference. The present invention does not require a complex map-based navigational control as does the S-K reference. In addition, the present invention was specifically targeted to adult users who are not familiar with the virtual navigational skills common place among younger audiences. The use of integrated way-point elements directly within the virtual environment allows a straight-forward method of navigation that is not provided by map-based control. The aforementioned limitation is a novel difference that is not taught nor suggested by the S-K reference. Therefore, the rejection of the present invention based on 35 USC 102(e) should be removed and the application as stands deserves reconsideration.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his assistance. Applicant submits that all objections and rejections are now overcome. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments that would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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